

has joined FBI Director Louis Freeh in calling for an independent counsel to find out the truth about Communist Chinese money funneled into the Democratic Party during the 1996 elections.

Of all the independent counsel matters currently under investigation, this particular allegation is perhaps the most serious one of all. If one party systematically violates the campaign finance laws, compromised national security with respect to our relations with Communist China, and then lied about doing any such thing, that is an attack on democracy.

If Janet Reno continues to block this investigation, in the words of the New York Times, "this will go down as a black mark against justice every bit as historic as any in our history."

JANET RENO'S FAILURE TO UPHOLD THE LAW

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I think most of us can agree this morning that the one basic task for the Attorney General is to uphold the Nation's laws. Yet, Janet Reno is refusing to do that by not appointing an independent prosecutor to investigate campaign abuses by officials in the Clinton administration.

She is acting a lot like Rip Van Winkle, who was asleep for over a year. She has been asleep for the last year as her two top investigators, FBI Director Louis Freeh and the head of the Justice Task Force Charles LaBella have recommended an appointment of an independent prosecutor.

The law is clear. The appointment of an independent counsel should be automatically triggered with just the hint of laws being broken by such officials. What more does she need?

But meanwhile, the Attorney General Janet Reno keeps sitting on her hands blind to the evidence and, Mr. Speaker, blind to the law.

ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF TAXPAYER RELIEF ACT

(Ms. DUNN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 1-year anniversary of the Taxpayer Relief Act, an historic piece of legislation that consisted of the first significant tax cut since the Reagan tax cuts of the early 1980s.

Let us face it, the Taxpayer Relief Act would never have passed had it not been for a Republican Congress. Let us remember that the idea we could balance the budget and pass tax relief was ridiculed by our worthy opponents on the other side right here in this body almost daily not too long ago.

Let us also remember that welfare reform would never have happened had

it not been for the Republican takeover of Congress in 1994. The IRS reform bill passed this summer. Not a chance if the Republicans had not held the majority. And last summer's Medicare reform legislation, which postponed bankruptcy from 2001 and 2010, it took a Republican Congress to push for Medicare reform in the face of the most constant, shameless demagoguery about good-faith efforts to reform Medicare.

Mr. Speaker, elections do matter. Balanced budgets, tax cuts, welfare reform, IRS reform, and Medicare reform. That is the reality of the Republican Congress.

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NATIONAL TRUCK DRIVER APPRECIATION WEEK

(Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I hope Americans will take time during the week of August 9 to note the accomplishments and contributions that truck drivers and the trucking industry have made to our lives and the prosperity of the American economy.

Consider:

From 1986 to 1996, the fatality rate for large trucks fell by 35 percent, while large truck mileage increased by 40 percent. The trucking industry employs nearly 9.5 million Americans. More than 423,000 companies in the United States are involved in trucking. In 1996 the trucking industry generated \$346 billion in gross revenues, hauling 6.5 billion tons of freight. Incidentally, that represents 82 percent of the Nation's freight bill.

I encourage everyone to celebrate the great safety record and the contribution to our well-being of America's truckers by making August 9 to August 15 National Truck Driver Appreciation Week.

MENTAL HEALTH

(Mrs. ROUKEMA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, last week two members of the Capitol Police force here were killed in the line of duty here at the Capitol. The senseless death of those two police officers has proved to the world what many of us already knew namely that there are gaping holes in the network of services designed to identify and treat people with mental illness. But I tell my colleagues something good must come from this tragedy, and we must work towards a lasting memorial for these valiant officers.

More and more Americans are witnessing in their communities every day the violence resulting from the failed

policy of deinstitutionalization and untreated mental illness. Last year alone, over 1,000 homicides were directly attributable to improperly treated mental illness.

I therefore call the attention of my colleagues to the initiative that the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) and I are taking, urging that Speaker GINGRICH and the House leadership appoint a task force to have a serious evaluation, including public hearings, on the failures of the system that result in violence in every community in this country that results from untreated mental illness.

I ask again, join us. Something good must come from this tragedy.

MANAGED CARE REFORM

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today the Committee on Commerce will consider legislation reauthorizing the Mammography Quality Standards Act, a program which has saved countless lives by improving the quality and accuracy of life-saving breast cancer screenings. While we improve early detection and screening of this deadly disease, women who suffer from breast cancer continue to be denied the best medical treatments available because medical decisions are too often made by insurance company HMO bureaucrats.

The bipartisan Patients Bill of Rights would ensure that women could stay in the hospital overnight following radical breast surgery. The Republican bill does not. The bipartisan Patients Bill of Rights would ensure that women can receive reconstructive surgery following mastectomy. The Republican bill does not.

This House has passed the Republican Insurance Company Bill of Rights. I urge my colleagues to do the right thing. Insist on a real Patients Bill of Rights, legislation which provides real protections for women.

2000 CENSUS

(Mr. EWING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask a simple question: Why would the President want to shut down the government over the census? He once said, "It is deeply wrong to shut down the government while we negotiate." Now he says he will veto a bill that would in fact close down the FBI, close down the courts, and bring home the Border Patrol unless Congress gives him his plan for the 2000 census. That plan is one to be done by polling, not counting individual citizens. We all know the margin of error in polling.

Mr. Speaker, the Republican Congress wants to save the 2000 census. The GAO and the Commerce Department's own Inspectors General have